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SECRET

25X1

PROBLEM

To maintain the estimative content of the National Intelligence Digest to reflect significant new National Intelligence Estimates or changes in previous estimates. (Note. This staff study does not consider the question of periodic revision of situation descriptions or of local estimates not derived from previous NIE's or SE's or covered in new ones. It is believed that a decision on this question should await the views of principal consumers.)

FACTS

1. Since the publication of the Digest, there have been published the following National Intelligence Estimates (omitting SIE-5):

a. NIE-64 (Part II): Probable Soviet Bloc Courses of Action, through Mid-1953.

b. NIE-75: Probable Developments in Iran through 1953.

c. NIE-21/1: Austrian Security Capabilities Following Withdrawal of Occupation Forces.

d. NIE-70: Conditions and Trends in Latin America Affecting US Security.

2. The subject matter of NIE-64 (Part II) was deliberately omitted from the Digest because of the fact that the estimate was pending. Soviet Bloc courses of action in Asia and Western Europe were, however, covered in the Digest in a manner consistent with the final text of NIE-64 (Part II).

3. NIE-75 goes well beyond the material contained in the Digest, which was limited to a six-month period, and contains a very much more detailed analysis of this critical situation. Moreover, the new NSC policy, NSC 136/1, has been circulated to holders of the NSC current policies book as a loose leaf addition thereto. The text of NSC 136/1 refers specifically to NIE-75 for support of one critical statement.

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4. NIE-21/1 deals with a narrow subject not covered in the Digest.

5. NIE-70 differs only in minor respects from the material in the Digest, which was prepared on the basis of an O/NE staff draft already partially cleared with the IAC agencies on the working level.

DISCUSSION

6. These test cases afford an adequate basis for a policy decision on how and to what extent the estimative content of the Digest can be maintained to reflect significant new estimates or changes in previous estimates. NIE-64 (Part II) and NIE-75 represent important additions or changes that should be made regardless of the mechanical problems. On the other hand, NIE-21/1 and NIE-70 represent minor changes only. Since the Digest material is not labelled as definitive and is therefore in little danger of being misinterpreted, it appears that the decision on these two should depend on the mechanical difficulties. On this basis, NIE-21/1 could be amended, since only a single page is involved, but NIE-70 would involve six pages and a number of collateral changes. The NIE-70 case indicates that a blanket policy of insertion would be difficult, as well as possibly troublesome to holders of the Digest.

7. Whatever additions are made, they should be given a proper date at the bottom of the page, to distinguish them from the material good as of 1 November 1952.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That DCI or Acting DD/I:

a. Approve the publication and dissemination to holders of the Digest of the conclusions of NIE-64 (Part II) as an addition to the Digest, and of excerpts from NIE-75 and NIE-21/1 to replace or modify existing sections V-A and VI-M.

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b. Approve the subsequent publication and dissemination to Digest holders of conclusions or extracts of new estimates, wherever such new estimates significantly modify or add to the Digest, or wherever such new estimates can be inserted with minor mechanical difficulty.

Approved: _____

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